

*PATHOLOGIE UND THERAPIE DER SEITLICHEN RUECKGRATSVERKRUEM-  
MUNGEN.* Von Dr. Adolph Lorenz, Docent für chirurgie, etc. Viena,  
1886. Alfred Hölder. New York, G. E. Stechert. (Pathology  
and Treatment of Lateral Curvature of the Spine.

The book appears in large octavo, containing about 200 pages of text, and is handsomely illustrated by means of nine lithographic and eleven photographic plates.

About one-third of the bulk of the book is devoted to the pathological and theoretical aspect of the subject of scoliosis, and about one-fourth each to the clinical side of the subject and to treatment.

The author admits a torsion of the spinal column in scoliosis (contra Nicoladoni), but does not believe that such torsion is produced by a relative rotation of the bodies of the vertebræ upon each other (since no alteration of the articular surfaces is to be observed), but maintains that the column is rotated as a whole.

Theories to account for the manner in which the rotation originates, as advanced by H. von Meyer, Drachmann, Schenk and others, are refuted. The author believes that when the bodies of the vertebræ are forced to one side in consequence of pressure from above, the vertebral arcs do not participate to the same extent in the motion, but are, as it were, left behind.

Anatomical changes occurring in the ribs, the sternum, the thorax, the pelvis, the ligaments and muscles of scoliotic individuals are separately described.

As to the theories of the genetic origin of scoliosis, the author first refutes, both anatomically and clinically Eulenburg's theory, (that the relaxation of the hyperextended muscles on the convex side of the curved spine cause the disorder), and sharply criticises Hüter's hypothesis of the pressure of the ribs during the growth of the parts. He also attacks other less recent theories relating to muscular action, as well as that of Lorinser, who believes scoliosis due to some insidious otitis. The so-called physiological scoliosis he believes to be an optical delusion referable to the flattening of the left half of the bodies of the middle thoracic vertebræ.

To Roser and Volkmann he gives the credit of having first thrown light upon the subject of scoliosis, by adducing static moments, and thus originating the theory of pressure by weight in habitual scoliosis, which he explains at length.

In the clinical portion of the work we find chapters on the symptomatology of typical forms of scoliosis, on the relative frequency of these different types, on the clinical course of the disease, and on the methods of the clinical examination of patients. As to the notation of results of

such examinations the author prefers the combination of photographic views of the back, and the data obtained with the help of Mikulicz's measuring apparatus and the lead wire.

Chapters descriptive of the static, rhachitic and other forms of scoliosis are given, and a practical one on the prophylactic treatment of the deformity in which the author describes a novel school-bench.

Under the heading of treatment, the author expresses himself as not in favor of Swedish movements for scoliosis, since he does not agree with Eulenburg's myogenetic theory. Sayre's treatment is extensively commented upon; in the author's opinion suspension alone is insufficient to correct the existing deformities, and therefore the corset is too ineffective, especially as it prevents correction of the position of the ribs. Poroplastic felt is condemned as not sufficiently easily applicable.

The antistatic method, consisting in the use of an inclined seat, etc., is not suitable for the correction of thoracic forms of scoliosis,

The author's method of treatment of lateral curvatures of the spine consists in a combination of forced corrections (*redressement*) of the position of the parts, together with the use of a removable plaster-of-Paris corset between the sittings. A cushioned wooden cylinder is fixed horizontally at a height corresponding to the axilla of the patient (supposed to be suffering from a deviation of the spinal column, in its thoracic portion, to the right side), and over this support the patient bends backwards and laterally, in such a manner that the cushion presses upon the prominent portion of the thorax at a point where the diagonal axis of the chest emerges, and in such a posture that the support is at right angles to this axis. The patient grasps a strap attached to the floor, with her left hand raised above her head. By pulling on this strap she can raise her feet from the floor, and the whole weight of the body now rests on the support, while the weight of the lower extremities (augmented, if need be, by suitable weights) tends to correct the compensatory curvature of the lumbar portion of the spine. This exercise he calls lateral suspension. In applying the plaster-of-Paris corset the author endeavors, by padding it in certain places with pieces of felt, to compress the thorax diagonally, sufficient room being maintained to permit a proper expansion in a plane situated at right angles to the one of compression. The author also makes an extensive use of narrow plaster-of-Paris jackets or belts, by means of which he endeavors to obtain a lateral shifting of the entire upper body on the pelvis, as it were.

These bandages are applied while the patient assumes certain appropriate positions, extension apparatus, lateral traction, etc., being frequently made use of.

In addition the author gives a number of his cases, illustrated by photographs, which, it must be acceded, show very good results.

W. W. VAN ARSDALE.

ON CANCER OF THE MOUTH, TONGUE AND ALIMENTARY TRACT. THEIR PATHOLOGY, SYMPTOMS, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT. By FREDERIC BOWREMAN JESSET, F.R.C.S. Eng., Surgeon to the Cancer Hospital, Brompton. Octavo. pp. 302. London. J. and A. Churchill. 1886.

As the introduction states, the object of the author in writing this book is to collect the more recent information on the subjects treated of, and to contrast the experience of other surgeons with his own at the Cancer Hospital, Brompton. Although nothing new has been attempted, Mr. Jesset has succeeded in presenting a clearly written and judicious résumé of our knowledge of the subjects which he has undertaken to discuss. Where so much literature has to be read on every subject, a reliable work, such as the present, is of much service, and enables those in busy practice to keep abreast of the advances of the day.

The contents are divided into nine chapters with the following heads: Cancer of the Lips; Cancer of the Gums and Antrum; Cancer of the Jaws; Cancer of the Tongue; Cancer of the Tonsil; Cancer of the Pharynx and Œsophagus; Cancer of the Stomach; Cancer of the Intestinal Canal, and Cancer of the Rectum and Anus.

It is unnecessary to review at length the contents of each chapter as it is equally true of them all to say that they give a full and careful digest of the pathology, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of the cancerous affections in each case. Statistical tables on questions of importance are quoted from various writers, and similar ones have been compiled by way of contrast from the records of the Cancer Hospital. The latter tables, however, do not seem to differ in any essential way from those previously published, but in so far as they confirm them they are of value as pieces of corroborative evidence.

A number of important cases are narrated at length at the end of the book. These have been selected from published records and from the author's case book and exemplify the text.

A good index makes a reference to any part of the contents at all times easy.

The spelling of Kocher's name as Kocker is a mistake which has been carried throughout the book. This, along with certain other typographical errors, will doubtless be remedied in a future edition.

The practical experience, wide reading, and judicious selection manifested in this work cannot fail to be appreciated.

CHARLES W. CATHCART.